

FEB 22 1967

## *CIA Support Is Defended*

THE CHANNELING of CIA funds into student organizations merely expressed "the confidence of our government in young Americans abroad," Chief of Protocol James M. Symington said yesterday.

Recent publicity about CIA involvement in the National Student Association and other youth groups, he continued, "would mar, but unfairly mar, what was an effort to get Americans to be seen and heard abroad."

Ambassador Symington's remarks came during a question period following an address he gave at the luncheon meeting of the

Public Relations Society of America in the Army-Navy Club.

He told the Society that a better way must now be found to achieve the same ends.

So far, he reported, his own organization—Protocol within the Department of State—had felt no weakening of confidence in the United States because of the CIA revelations.

IN HIS SPEECH to the group Symington made a plea to the American business community to help make foreign visitors feel welcome. Symington reminded his audience that to-

day's statesman is yesterday's student.

"His memories of loneliness, neglect, or insult in this land could very well affect his decisions. Furthermore, his already-fixed attitudes are more likely to be changed by red carpets."

Symington asked that American industry involve itself in the work of organizations like The Hospitality and Information Service (THIS), which could help put together meaningful programs for making useful contacts.